

## ABSTRACT

The invention concerns the location and characterization of a gene (designated *NIM1*) that is a key component of the SAR pathway and that in connection with chemical and biological  
5 inducers enables induction of SAR gene expression and broad spectrum disease resistance in plants. The invention further concerns transformation vectors and processes for overexpressing the *NIM1* gene in plants. The transgenic plants thus created have broad spectrum disease resistance.